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**DATE:** June 30, 2004  
**OUR REFERENCE:** UMJ-101-A  
**TO:** USPTO  
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**FACSIMILE NO.:** (703) 746-4000  
**FROM:** Julia Church Dierker  
**RE:** Serial No. 09/255,963; Confirmation No. 9213  
**PAGES TO FOLLOW:** -16-  
**MESSAGE:** Please enter the enclosed 1.312 Amendment and  
Issue Fee in the above-identified application.

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Our Reference: UMJ-101-A

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Peter X. Ma  
Serial Number: 09/255,963  
Filing Date: February 23, 1999  
Confirmation No.: 9213  
Examiner/Art Group Unit: Sumesh Kaushal/1636  
Title: THREE-DIMENSIONAL HYDROGEL/CELL SYSTEM

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Sir:

Transmitted with this document is an Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.312; Fee(s) Transmittal (PTOL-85) and "Fee Address" Indication Form in the above-identified application.

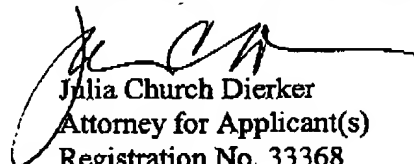
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Respectfully submitted,

DIERKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

  
Julia Church Dierker  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
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3331 West Big Beaver Rd., Suite 109  
Troy, Michigan 48084-2813  
Dated: June 30, 2004  
JCD/hmp/slc



06/30/2004

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PAGE 03

Our Reference: UMJ-101-A (UM-1476)

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Peter X. Ma  
Serial Number: 09/255,963  
Filing Date: February 23, 1999  
Examiner/Art Group Unit: Sumesh Kaushal, Ph.D./1636  
Confirmation No.: 9213  
Title: THREE-DIMENSIONAL HYDROGEL/CELL  
SYSTEM

AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.312

ATTN: BOX ISSUE FEES  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of Rule 37 C.F.R. 1.312, please enter the following Amendment to the above-identified application.

In the specification:

**For the paragraph at page 8, lines 22-27, please revise as follows:**

Alginate gels have not been reported as scaffolds to engineer tissues *in vitro*, probably due to the difficulties in controlling the mechanical properties, shape and size in a cell culture environment. The present invention ~~describ~~ describes methods and compositions related to the use of ionically crosslinked alginate gels as scaffolds with defined dimensions for *in vitro* tissue engineering applications, that are controlled and reproducible.